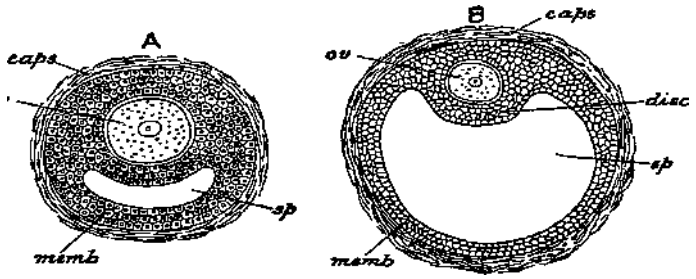
Eutherian mammals, including the Marsupials, are very small as compared with those of any other vertebrates, excepting only *^Amp7iioxi(.s,* where the young are hatched early as free swimming larvae. They also differ in a highly characteristic way in the mode of their development within the ovary. These processes are to some extent illustrated in Fig. 44. The main frame-work of the ovary is formed of the so-called *' strorna," which is a mass of tissue formed of more or less connective-tissue-like cells. Within this are numerous cavities, the Graafian follicles. The very young follicles consist of but a single layer of follicular cells surrounding the ovum, which lies centrally. The follicular



Fra. *45.*—Two stages in the development of the Graafian follicle. A, With, the follicular fluid beginning to appear ; B, after the space has largely increased. *caps,* Capsule; *disc,* cumulus proligerus; *memb,* membrana granulosa ; *ov,* ovum ; *s%>>* space containing fluid. (After Hertwig.)

cells gradually increase in number until the ovum lies in the midst of several layers of cells. At this period a vacuity is formed between some of these cells, and grow., into a large cell-free cavity; the ovum does not lie loosely in this space, but is connected at one side with the follicular cells, which still line the interior of the Graafian follicle by the so-called discus or cumulus proligerus. The egg or ovum has, moreover, a layer of cells immediately surrounding itself. All these facts can be gathered by an inspection of Fig. 45. It has been shown that, as in lower vertebrates, the cells immediately surrounding the ovum are connected with it directly by delicate processes which penetrate the actual membrane of the egg.

The only ova which depart at all in. structure from that above described are those of the Monotremata. The credit of this